



U Serve Utah

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

QUICK FACTS

- In 2013, over 970,000 Utahns volunteered 165 million hours, with most Utahns volunteering in schools or mentoring youth.
- This equates to 81.4 hours rendered per resident.
- Volunteerism promotion through UServeUtah continues to impact Utah's ranking as the #1 state for volunteerism in the nation – **For 8 years in a row!**
- Volunteerism is truly one of Utah's greatest assets and is a significant natural resource that contributes to our economic strength and vibrant communities.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION



UServeUtah, the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism was created by state statute in 1994 and is comprised of 20 members representing local government, community based organizations and statewide networks and 5 staff. As the state's central coordinating body for service and volunteerism, the Commission is responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a vision and culture of civic engagement and national and community service within the state.

Since its inception in 1994 UServeUtah has focused on increasing the capacity of organizations to serve, strengthen and transform communities through service and volunteerism. It furthers its mission by; promoting volunteerism; administering National Service programs; connecting people with opportunities to serve; building organizational capacity for effective volunteer engagement; and participating in strategic initiatives that mobilize volunteers to meet local needs.

NATIONAL SERVICE



This year AmeriCorps, the Domestic Peace Corps, will engage more than 75,000 Americans nationwide in intensive, results-driven service in the areas of education, public safety, health and the environment. In 2013 Utah AmeriCorps programs which operated throughout the state with 1,543 AmeriCorps members. These members mobilized more than 45,000 volunteers who tutored and mentored youth, connected underserved populations to health care resources, cleaned and tended parks and streams, taught environmental stewardship, and operated after school programs. These volunteers gave over 266,067 hours of service with an estimated value of over \$4.8 million dollars.

UServeUtah administers all Utah AmeriCorps*State grants and manages the Utah program portfolio comprising 10 AmeriCorps programs that target underserved and needy populations in the focus areas of: Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Disaster Preparedness, Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.

Programs currently operating in the state include the Utah Conservation Corps; Habitat for Humanity; the AUCH Health Care Corps; Red Cross; Playworks; the Salt Lake County Homeless program; Utah Campus Compact; BYU; Secondary Mentoring program; and the Read, Graduate, Succeed/KSL Read Today program.

Since 1994, more than 12,000 Utahns have participated in the AmeriCorps programs, dedicating 7.4 million hours to building up communities across the state. In 2013 AmeriCorps programs recruited over 13,000 volunteers who gave over 200,000 hours of service.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



UServeUtah seeks to build and cultivate capacity in the volunteer and service community through collaboration and consensus and functions as consultant, and training resource to expand public/private partnerships and volunteer mobilization capacity. UServeUtah actively promotes volunteerism and is committed to creating ways for Utahns to identify and engage in quality volunteer and service opportunities. A primary aim of UServeUtah is to help organizations effectively use service

& volunteerism as a strategy to fulfill their mission and to address critical community problems by providing volunteer management trainings to local organizations.

UServeUtah recognizes outstanding volunteers across the state through the annual Volunteer Achievement Awards, as well as support of statewide volunteer recognition programs. UServeUtah is dedicated to recognizing and acknowledging individuals for their volunteer efforts.

UServeUtah, through community engagement efforts has sponsored National Service Days in Utah, including 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance and Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. In 2013, on the 9/11 and MLK Days of Service, 6,395 volunteers (1,794 of which were new volunteers) contributed over 10,000 hours of service at 64 service activities which were sponsored across the state.

DISASTER RECOVERY/RESPONSE



Volunteers – sometimes hundreds, sometimes thousands – show up to help after a disaster, bringing skills, energy and compassion to the relief effort. Given the limited resources available at the federal, state, and local levels, the successful integration of citizen involvement in an emergency management setting is imperative to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters in our communities.

Volunteers can be essential in helping to rebuild lives and rebuild communities. It is important that volunteers are given meaningful and constructive opportunities to serve, while not overwhelming the affected community during the response and recovery. UServeUtah seeks to help local communities plan for coordination of spontaneous and unaffiliated volunteers during disaster recovery efforts.

In the event of a disaster, UServeUtah serves on the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and is the lead in coordinating volunteer and donations management. UServeUtah acts as the liaison with the corporation for National and Community Service to call upon National Service resources such as AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) and FEMA Corps members for on-ground support.